No. .....

Smithsonian Institution,

Washington, D. C. Feb 21st 1857

Prof Gray

Dear Sir

When I last wrote to you from Hoboken I was somewhat in expectation of going out with the N.W. Boundary Survey, but as I have since mentioned in a letter from here, Dr. C. B. Kennerly has got the place, and is to leave for the western coast in the steamer of the month from New York. I now write to say that I shall probably leave during the coming month, with the party which is to make the Yellow Stone Road to Salt Lake via South Pass and the 42°

plants, and altered the name of the Astragalus as decided. They must go to Dr. Torrey but must be put in the hands of Pickett. It seems that the botanical Report has to wait for Governor's decision as to publishing a second volume which was to contain a narrative of the expedition & the scientific Reports. If he does not sanction the narrative they will be appended to one of the other volumes. There is a prospect that Thompson's get out this year.

Very Respectfully

Yours

J. G. Cooper

Prof Gray

Cambridge

If you have any special instructions to give as to botanical collection on Pacific route, I shall be glad to have them — I intend however to make my botanical as full as possible after reaching the South Pass where the work of our party is to commence. We will probably spend three months between there and the 114th Lat. which will of course give a splendid chance for the collection in the mountains. I sent you lately a package of plants by mail which I hope reached you safely, and shall be glad to hear from you concerning them at your leisure —

I have found the drawings of